

## REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2021

### Tackling Poverty & Inequalities – Allocation of Budget

#### 1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities group has identified areas of investment which meets the partnerships priorities. The report outlines the proposed budget spend for 2021/ 22.

#### 2 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 **Confirm the budget allocation for 2021 / 2022; and**
- 2.2 **Agree the grants to be awarded as summarised at paragraph 5.4.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership was set up by the Community Planning Partnership, to co-ordinate strategic development across Partners. This Partnership Group leads on the priority, to reduce child poverty across Aberdeenshire and is chaired by the Buchan Area Manager.
- 3.2 On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Communities Committee approved the Aberdeenshire Information & Advice Delivery Framework, which is funded and supported by the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group. When approving the Framework, Communities Committee agreed that Area Committees would be informed of progress in relation to delivery of the Framework as part of the TP&I Annual Report.
- 3.4 This Report has not been considered by the Communities Committees previously.

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group's priorities are:
- **Reducing the number of children/people living in poverty;**
  - **Preventing children/people falling into poverty;**
  - **Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life; and**
  - **Improve the wellbeing of people living in poverty.**

The approach to tackling poverty focuses on early intervention and prevention – tackling the root causes and building peoples' capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.

- 4.2 The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership leads on the priority to reduce poverty across Aberdeenshire.

- 4.3 The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership annually undertakes a review of priorities and outcomes and identifies improvement areas. The impact of Covid19 has resulted in the priorities being reviewed and areas of development have been informed by the work highlighted in the report Towards a Fairer Aberdeenshire 2020, which has previously been presented to this Committee. The proposed budget and projects which will deliver on the priorities and outcomes is outlined in appendix 2.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The work and outcomes delivered through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities partnership helps delivery the council priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise

It also reflects the underpinning principle of tackling poverty and inequalities.

- 5.2 The activities and outcomes delivered through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities partnership, helps deliver against the Child Poverty Action Plan, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan and links with a range of strategies including Criminal Justice, Housing, Transport and Economic Development.
- 5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing	x		
Equalities	x		
Fairer Scotland Duty	x		
Town Centre First		x	
Sustainability		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	x		

- 5.4 The financial implications are identified in Appendix 2. The Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund for the period April 2021-March 2022 is £1,048,000 and proposed allocation is:

<b>Project/Activity</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation</b>
<b>Homestart</b>	<b>£30,000</b>
<b>Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust</b>	<b>£8,190</b>
<b>Garioch Community Kitchen</b> <i>Eat Well for Less Parent &amp; Child Cooking program</i> <i>Young people's project.</i>	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>Peoples First</b>	<b>£15,750</b>
<b>Kincardine &amp; Mearns CAB</b> <i>Partnership project with Homestart Kincardine</i>	<b>£13,585</b>
<b>Barnardo's Works</b>	<b>£26,900</b>
<b>Gordon Rural Action</b> <i>Huntly Community Hub</i>	<b>£22,180</b>
<b>Aberdeen Foyer</b> <i>Peterhead &amp; Fraserburgh Community Hub</i>	<b>£83,874</b>
<b>Quarriers</b>	<b>£14,652</b>
<b>Aberdeenshire North Foodbank</b> <i>Fraserburgh Foodbank</i>	<b>£12,100</b>
<b>Buchan Dial a Community Bus</b>	<b>£35,436</b>
Aberdeenshire Council Information & Advice framework <i>CAB contract</i> <i>Specialist staff</i>	£549,000
Aberdeenshire Council <i>Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities staff costs</i> 1 full time TP&I Coordinator 1 full time TP&I Project Officer	£100,000
Aberdeenshire Council CLD <i>Community Connect – Banff &amp; Macduff</i>	£40,000
Aberdeenshire Council <i>Local Voices – Lived Experience project</i>	£50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,021,667</b>

- 5.5 There are staffing implications. It is proposed to recruit a Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Project Officer to support the work of the Strategic Partnership. This post replaces the vacant Administrative Assistant post and results in an increased staffing cost of £5,000. It is also proposed to retain the Child Poverty & Engagement Worker, employed as part of the Local Voices – Lived Experience project for a further year. The staffing element of this is approximately £31,900 including oncosts. Through matched ESF funding it has been possible to secure additional specialist workers that will be hosted by partners and other services within the council including Housing and a third sector organisation that focuses on supporting marginalised groups such as Gypsy Travellers and LGBTQ+.
- 5.6 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is outlined in Appendix 1. The work which is delivered and monitored through the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Group, to maximise income and improve employability for people on a low income, can reduce inequalities of outcome caused

by socio economic disadvantage, which helps meet our aims under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

The following positive impacts have been highlighted –

- Increased household income for those living in poverty and at highest risk of poverty;
- Improved social mobility and engagement with employment market in Aberdeenshire;
- Improved employment conditions and household income for those experiencing in-work poverty;
- Improved health and well-being and educational attainment;
- Reduced unintended inequalities caused by service commissioning;
- Action is likely to contribute to children and young people living a poverty free life in adulthood.

5.7 The children and young peoples' rights and wellbeing implications are likely to close the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life, which may contribute to children and young people living a poverty free life in adulthood.

5.8 It is anticipated that some of the ambitions set out in the Child Poverty Action Plan can be met from within existing resources, where changes to the way in which services are delivered, can be made at no additional cost to Partner organisations. In addition, Scottish Government's Delivery Plan *Every Child, Every Chance* highlights a range of funding opportunities which will come onstream during the life of the Plan. Opportunities to access these funding streams will be explored as appropriate.

5.9 There are no Directorate risks identified, however as a result of the complex nature of Poverty & Inequalities, the following risk has been identified, as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: ACORP007 – Social Risks, changes in population Poverty & Social Inequality [Corporate Risk Register](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/23596/20181128-directorate-risks.pdf).  
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/23596/20181128-directorate-risks.pdf>

## **6 Scheme of Governance**

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this Report and their comments are incorporated within the Report and are satisfied that the Report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Sections D 3.5 of Part 2A of the List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the Committees' powers to approve the award of grants to external bodies in accordance with Financial Regulations.

**Ritchie Johnson Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Annette Johnston, Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Coordinator  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**List of Appendices –**

Appendix 1 – EIA

Appendix 2 – Allocation of the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIA Version	Date	Author	Changes
Version1	1/3/2021	A Johnston	

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance, and decisions including those that affect services the council delivers).	
Service	Business Services
Section	Tackling Poverty & Inequalities
Title of the activity etc.	Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Progress Report
Aims and desired outcomes of the activity	Reducing the number of children/people living in poverty. Preventing children/people falling into poverty. Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life. Improve the wellbeing of people living in poverty.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Annette Johnston Tackling Poverty & Inequalities progress report Tackling Poverty & Inequalities budget allocation.

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment and explain what it means in relation to the activity you are assessing.		
Evidence	What does it say?	What does it mean?

<p>Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).</p>	<p>Tackling Child Poverty in Aberdeenshire: lessons from local voices (2018) research commissioned on behalf of Aberdeenshire CPP. This research engaged with a range of staff, partners, and low-income families. The outcome of the research project informed the Child Poverty Action Plan.</p> <p>Monitoring data supplied by existing service level agreements which includes who the services have worked with, where the service is delivered and what services are being delivered.</p> <p>Housing &amp; finance information that identifies areas of need for Information &amp; Advice services to reduce rent arrears, homelessness, or the risk of losing a tenancy or home.</p> <p>The level of free school meals</p> <p>Number of applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund.</p>	<p>The voices of those with lived experience is important in the co-production of services and opportunities.</p> <p>Addressing stigma felt by low-income families is a priority area for the partnership.</p> <p>Data supplied from funded services and project is used to identify gaps, highlight good practice, and ensure the existing resources are used more effectively.</p> <p>The number of free school meals gives an indication of the number of low-income families across Aberdeenshire therefore this can be used to target areas that require additional support especially out with term time.</p> <p>The data collected through the Scottish Welfare Fund has identified an increase in applications looking for support to cover household bills including food because of the 5-week waiting time when applying for Universal Credit.</p>
<p>Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.</p>	<p>The report will be shared with the Senior Leadership Team, Area Committees and those services that are represented on the Tackling Poverty strategic group.</p>	<p>The feedback from services, elected members and officers will inform future plans and priorities of the Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities strategic group.</p>

<p>External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).</p>	<p>Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities Strategic Group Improvement Service Health &amp; Social Care Partnership Aberdeenshire Financial Inclusion Partnership Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership Community Planning Board</p>	<p>Addressing any forms of poverty is complex and requires support and commitment from all partners. Partners require to identify their role in reducing Poverty and how they can change their practice to ensure stigma is addressed.</p> <p>The voice of the lived experience is key to delivering and the coproduction of services.</p> <p>The work which has been carried out across Aberdeenshire has had a positive impact however there are areas of improvement which requires to be actioned.</p>
<p>External data (census, available statistics).</p>	<p>SMID, NHS data, DWP (Universal Credit) data, Scottish Government – Child Poverty data., Skills Development Scotland Increase in claims to Universal Credit</p> <p>Increase of numbers of business reporting redundancies or closing down</p> <p>Increase numbers of families and individuals accessing food banks / community outlets.</p>	<p>Data supplied is used to identify gaps, highlight good practice, and ensure the existing resources are used more effectively. Not all the data is available at a ward level therefore localised data is being explored.</p> <p>The increase in claims to Universal credit, the unemployment rate, and the increase in use of foodbanks indicated an increase in households who are living in poverty or require additional financial support.</p>

<p>Other (general information as appropriate).</p>	<p>The ambitions set out by Scottish Government in Every Child; Every Chance have informed the Child Poverty Plan which will be used to develop the Local Action Report which will be produced annually</p> <p>The ambitions are to ensure services and opportunities supported through the Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities group are accessible, high quality, good value and cover across Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>The lived experience forum gives us access to case studies which are used to highlight the areas of improvement of service delivery.</p>	<p>The report outlines what has been delivered over the last 12 months and what should be a priority over the next 12 months giving an opportunity to review action and progress annually. The 2019 report gives partners a base line to work from.</p> <p>An annual review of the work carried out and supported by the Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities group identifies trends, gaps, and good practice.</p> <p>The lived experience group has identified different ways of working which can benefit the wider community.</p>
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Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	None have been identified however not all data is available at a ward level therefore local data is being identified which could be collated to enhance future plans. The full impact of the recent pandemic and Brexit is unknown at this time however an increase in Poverty & Inequalities is anticipated.

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:
	Collate the local data outlined in the Child Poverty Action plan which will be reviewed annually.	June 2021
	The monitoring information received internally and externally will be collated and used to identify trends. This would be reviewed annually.	February 2022
	The activities and impacts around Child Poverty, Information & Advice Framework, Progress of Tackling Poverty & Inequalities will be reported through Area Committees and Policy Committees annual therefore local data will be collected which will be used to identify gaps.	March 2021
	Review of the Information & Advice Framework will take place to ensure it is meeting the needs of those living in Aberdeenshire	March 2022

Stage 5: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups/areas?	
These should be included in the action plan.	Ensure that the Lived Experience continues to reflect those target groups outlined in the Scottish Government in Every Child, Every Chance. Continue to build on the partnership work which has been developed around this area. Report progress to Area Committees, Policy Committees and Health & Social Care Partnership. Highlight good practice at a local and national level.

Stage 6: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?	
The approach to tackling poverty & inequalities focusses on early intervention and prevention – tackling the root causes of poverty and building people’s capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.	
Accessing appropriate services and opportunities will contribute to reducing child poverty, social justice, support housing first principles, reducing homelessness and reducing inequalities across Aberdeenshire.	
Through identifying and addressing the barriers faced by those who are at risk of poverty or living in poverty should result in a reduction of inequalities.	

Stage 7a:

Are there potential impacts on protected groups?

The protected groups covered by the equality duty are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Who is affected by the activity or who is intended to benefit from the proposed activity and how? Complete the table below for each protected group by inserting “yes” in the applicable box/boxes below.

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	Yes Through increasing opportunities for those who are living in low-income households ensuring improved outcomes.			
Age - Older	Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for parents or kinship carers who are living in low-income households ensuring improved outcomes.			
Disability	Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for parents who are living in low-income households ensuring improved outcomes.			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)	Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.			

Religion or Belief				Not known as the data will not identify religion or beliefs
Sex	<p>Yes</p> <p>Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Yes</p> <p>Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p> <p>The development of the Financial Health Check pathways targets those who are pregnant or have a child under 1 years old.</p>			
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)				Unknow as this data will not be identified.
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)				Unknow as this data will not be identified.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<p>Yes</p> <p>Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			

Stage 7b: Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy, activity etc. will or may impact on socio-economic inequalities?

This is about trying to be fair to everyone. Part of that is realising that not everyone may be starting at the same place. Some individuals and families may have low income, may have very little or no savings which means they are living from month to month therefore changes to council policies/services may have a greater adverse impact on them.

On this basis you should consider potential impacts on individuals/families by:

- Place: on specific vulnerable areas or communities (SIMD, regeneration, rural) e.g., housing, transport.
- Pockets: household resources, (Income, benefits, outgoings) ability to access a service
- Prospects: peoples life chances e.g., Access to, or ability to access employment, training, services (such as council or health) or support.

Groups of people who may be impacted include, but not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployed</li> <li>• Single parents and vulnerable families</li> <li>• People on benefits</li> <li>• Those involved in the criminal justice system</li> <li>• People in the most deprived communities</li> <li>• People who live in rural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pensioners</li> <li>• Looked after children</li> <li>• Carers including young carers</li> <li>• Veterans</li> <li>• Students</li> <li>• Single adult households</li> <li>• People who have experienced the asylum system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those leaving the care setting including children and young people and those with illness</li> <li>• Homeless people</li> <li>• People with low literacy/numeracy</li> <li>• People with lower educational qualifications</li> <li>• People in low paid work</li> <li>• People with one or more protected characteristic</li> </ul>
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Please complete by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.

Socio-economic disadvantage	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
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<p>Pockets: Low income/income poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing</p>	<p>Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			
<p>Pockets: Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future</p>	<p>Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			
<p>Pockets: Material deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e., financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure, and hobbies</p>	<p>Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			
<p>Place: Area deprivation – where you live, where you work</p>	<p>Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			
<p>Prospects: Socioeconomic background – social class i.e., parents' education, employment and income, educational achievement.</p>	<p>Yes Through increasing opportunities and access to services for those families that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p>			

Stage 8: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive	Negative
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	<p>Increasing opportunities and access to services for those that have low income, high living costs and limited employment.</p> <p>Increased access to services will close the inequalities gap and support improved quality of life.</p>	
	<p>People living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty will experience a reduction of stigma from accessing services and opportunities which will improve their outcomes.</p>	
	<p>Increased household income for those living in poverty and at highest risk of poverty through benefit up take and income maximisation.</p>	
	<p>Continue to support the lived experience forum the challenges of living in poverty and experience inequalities will be raised and address to ensure services and opportunities are accessible, where and when require.</p>	

Stage 9: Have any of the affected groups/areas been involved, engaged with, or consulted?	
<p>If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?</p>	<p><i>Tackling Child Poverty in Aberdeenshire: lessons from local voices</i> (2018) research commissioned on behalf of Aberdeenshire CPP. This research engaged low-income families who will continue to be engaged with as part of the ongoing monitoring process.</p> <p>Client feedback has been collated from existing services and funded projects. This feedback has been the basis of the development of how services are delivered.</p> <p>The lived experience forum will ensure local voices continue to co-develop / produce services.</p>

Stage 10: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?

	Mitigating Steps	Timescale
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Identify & secure additional funding to build capacity	March 2022
	Support all organisations to work in partnership to use existing resources more effectively	March 2022
	Ensure that any commissioning process doesn't exclude local providers from the tender process	March 2022

Stage 11: What monitoring arrangements will be put in place? How the EIA will be used to monitor the proposal

These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).	<p>Monitoring framework will continue to be developed to ensure outcomes are identified and met.            Progress reports will be submitted to the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board.            Progress reports to be submitted to Area Committees annually.            Progress reports will be submitted to Communities Committee, Education &amp; Children Service Committee, Health &amp; Social Care Partnership and NHS Grampian senior Leadership team annually.            Annual Child Poverty Local Action Report will be published and monitored through the structure set out through the Scottish Government.            All reports will contain client feedback to ensure services are meeting their needs and any improvement areas are highlighted.            The EIA will be updated to reflect positive impacts and any areas of development throughout the lifetime of the Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequalities group as well as the Child Poverty Action plan.</p>
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Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	<p>The approach to tackling poverty &amp; inequalities focusses on tackling the root causes of poverty and building people's capabilities through income maximisation, employability and promoting positive life chances.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund is used to support services and opportunities that improve the live chances of those most vulnerable in Aberdeenshire.</p>	
	2	<p>Negative Impacts have been identified; these can be mitigated - please explain.            * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.</p>

	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen

\* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

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Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Business Services		
	2) Title of Activity	Tackling Poverty & Inequalities (if appropriate)		
	3) <b>Authors:</b> I have completed the equality impact assessment for this activity.	Name: Annette Johnston	Name:	
		Position: Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Coordinator	Position:	
		Date: 1/3/2020	Date:	
	Signature: <i>a Johnston</i>	Signature:		
	Name:	Name:		
	Position:	Position:		
	Date:	Date:		
	Signature:	Signature:		
4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name:			
	Date:			

5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Amanda Roe Position: Buchan Area Manager Date: 1/3/2021	Name: Position: Date:
6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee.	Date:	
7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: equalities@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Date:	



**Tackling Poverty & Inequalities – Fairer Aberdeenshire Funded Projects**

**appendix 2**

The impact of Covid has changed partners priorities, increased the need for a range of support and services. The resources available to partners are required to be reviewed and used to build capacity and address the emerging needs.

All projects have been affected by the impact of Covid therefore there has been in some cases, delays in development. Due to the impact of Covid the partnership proposes to continue to fund projects as outlined in the table below to ensure a continuation of services.

The information below has been collated from the original application, action plan, monitoring reports and interviews.

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
<b>Child Poverty</b>		
<p><b>Community Connect – Banff &amp; MacDuff ( CLD)</b> Banff &amp; MacDuff was highlighted as an area which required further support and exploration therefore this pilot was an outcome from the TP&amp;I review session 2018. The project was set up to address inequalities in the local area, using a community led approach. Working with communities, the project addresses inequalities ranging from income and access to food, to childcare barriers. The project engages with the whole community through a range of methods including Facebook – Community Works Banff &amp; Macduff which is regularly updated with project info, financial advice, support, and any other relevant information. Current projects include a small grants programme, where community members formed a mini public to decide upon grant allocation, a research project into childcare provision which is has also identified barriers to accessing childcare provision. This research is about to launch a second phase. The project also supports</p>	<p>The start of the project had been delayed due to recruitment in 2019 therefore the project was extended for a further 12 months. Covid has impacted on the project outcomes in 2020 however online information and support has increased and 800 people have engaged through social media. Partnership working has strengthened in the area. 85 people working in the area participated in session to increased skills and knowledge, resulting in people accessing services, opportunities, and support at the time they require them. 110 Local people have increased their participation in decision making.</p>	<p>Funding for a further 2 years at a sliding scale. This will give the service enough time to reallocate their resources to ensure this project is mainstreamed into their core budget.</p> <p>2021/ 22 - £40,000 2022/ 23 -£32,000</p>

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
ongoing campaigns focusing on welfare and financial support.		
<p><b>Local Voices – Lived Experience project</b> As the result of the Child Poverty Research this project was agreed to ensure local people were involved in decision making. People experiencing poverty are key partners therefore families are recruited from across Aberdeenshire to coproduce services and opportunities to reduce the levels of poverty and improve outcomes for low-income families.</p>	<p>There was a delay due to post development in this project being put in place. The project has been in place for 15 months with the forum being in place for al 12 months. The forum has been highlighted as good practice and informed policies and different ways of working in areas such as free school meals, Cancer support, impact of Covid, Health &amp; wellbeing opportunities and supported the development of Challenge Poverty Week. The breakdown families that have been supported are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 families are employed</li> <li>• 10 families are unemployed</li> <li>• 6 families are full time carers</li> <li>• 5 families are in education</li> </ul> <p>Additional engagement has been carried out through social media. The page set up to support this project has reached 10,700 people. The closed Facebook group has 49 families registered where they are empowered to lead their own page, share information, and support each other within a safe environment. There is a gap around young people’s voices being heard which is being addressed.</p> <p>The funding covers participation incentives however there is a risk of creating dependency and as the number increase a different model requires to be developed.</p>	2021/ 22 - £50,000
<p><b>Homestart</b> The project was identified by health visitors, social workers and early years workers who were unable to access support for families in the Peterhead area. The</p>	Covid has impacted on the project however the support and services were developed so they could continue online.	Funding to be allocated over the next 2 years using a sliding scale.

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
<p>project was set up to build capacity within the Buchan area ensuring Home Start North East could support families within the Peterhead and surrounding areas</p>	<p>Over the time of the project 90 families have been supported to reduce isolation. During the pandemic weekly phone calls from volunteers and the staff member which provided families with a lifeline to keep them feeling more connected and able to cope as a family unit. An additional 31 families have been given intensive support from the staff member , using social media, phone calls, texts. 120 educational activity packs have been developed and handed out to families using doorstep visits. 22 additional volunteers have been trained and matched with families in the Peterhead area. 130 families have been supported through group work, which has made people feel more connected to their local community and better able to cope as a family unit.</p>	<p>Additional funding to be identified ensuring sustainable services. 2021/ 22 - £30,000 2022/23 - £25,000</p>
<p><b>Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust</b> To deliver a Summer holiday programme targeting children from New Pitsligo and Buchanhaven Primary Schools. The programme aimed to increase the children’s confidence, support low-income families to decrease household costs and improve employability throughout this period.</p>	<p>The summer programme for 2020 was affected by Covid therefore only 50% of the project could be delivered. The young people from New Pitsligo were still able to take part in the project and families that had been most effected from the impact of Covid were able to get some positive experience through the programme. The funding will cover a summer in 2021 which will be targeted at Buchanhaven Primary. Direct payment of Free School meals to low-income families have reduced holiday hunger however the opportunity for children &amp; young people to develop skills and families having a safe place for children to be while they are at work are also important aspects of this project.</p>	<p>2021/ 22 - £8,190</p>

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
	<p>There requires a more strategic approach to holiday programmes across Aberdeenshire. Local funding streams could be utilised in the future to deliver programmes of this nature.</p> <p>Nationally there is a focus on holiday programmes therefore future funding may be allocated through any additional funding streams,</p>	
<p><b>Garioch Community Kitchen</b> <i>Eat Well for Less Parent &amp; Child Cooking program</i> Increase confidence preparing healthy meals from scratch, to increase confidence following recipes and to improve diet. The programme will be delivered in Ellon, Inch, Peterhead, Turriff, Kemnay and Oldmeldrum.</p> <p><i>Young people's project.</i> Provide hands on cooking experience and informal lessons, with attendees gaining confidence and knowledge in food preparation, cooking skills, food hygiene, meal planning, budgeting, and transferable workplace skills.</p>	<p>During the pandemic it was agreed to use the funding to support food boxes which were delivered to 111 new families. These boxes continued so families could take part in online weekly chats and courses to encourage families to, prepare low cost healthy meals, gain skills and reduce waste. 1547 food parcels were delivered to households which fed 268 children. The project continues to deliver online courses with 116 participants which includes 73 children.</p>	<p>2021 /22 - £20,000</p>
<b>Financial Inclusion</b>		
<p><b>Peoples First</b> Provide free, confidential, impartial information, advice and a tribunal representation service for adults with complex needs.</p>	<p>The funding covers a welfare rights post that has developed into a specialist key worker for adults with learning disabilities. There had been a gap in service which has resulted in adults with complex needs not being able to access the relevant information &amp; Advice services which resulted in them not being able to be financially independent. This project was developed to ensure this client group could access a range of relevant services including information &amp; advice</p>	<p>Funding to cover 9 months, to allow the exploration of a joint funding package.</p> <p>2021/2022 - £15,750</p>

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
	<p>resulting in clients feeling empowered reducing dependency and improving health &amp; wellbeing. Covid has impacted on the service and clients are looking for more intense support therefore 26 clients have been supported through 2020 . Client Financial Gain is -£25,480</p>	
<p><b>Kincardine &amp; Mearns CAB</b> Partnership project with Homestart Kincardine which will support families who are struggling to manage the household budget, ensuring they can access the support required to achieve a positive outcome for their family.</p>	<p>This project was to ensure families with preschool children were given access to financial support &amp; information at a time where their circumstances changed. This project has improved local partnerships and ensure integrated services and an increase in benefit up take including the Best Start grants. The services have changed to phone and digital support which 62 families have benefited from.</p>	2021 /2022 - £13,585
<b>Employability &amp; Digital Inclusion</b>		
<p><b>Barnardo's Works</b> The project targets 16 – 25 year olds from Huntly, Aberchirder and the surrounding areas, providing support to build employability capacity through a mixture of 1-2-1 support to individuals, group work and provide some structured employer engagement</p>	<p>This project has supported 27 young people have been supported online to improve their employability . Digital inclusion has been an issue therefore 10 digital kits have been secured to ensure the young people can continue their participation in their programmes including virtual placements,</p>	2021/ 2022 - £26,900
<p><b>Huntly Community Hub – Gordon Rural Action</b> The project is to develop a resource hub in Huntly which will support partners and those living in the area to increase access to services and support especially digital. As part of the project a partnership with Gordon School is to be developed to enhance financial education for secondary pupils.</p>	<p>The start of this project has been furthered delayed due to the pandemic therefore no outcomes has been achieved. Partners who were to deliver services have moved their programmes online. Aberdeenshire North Foodbank continue to use the hub for a storage and session.</p>	2021/2022 - £22,180

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
<p><b>Peterhead &amp; Fraserburgh Community Hub – Aberdeen Foyer</b> His project was identified through a commissioned piece of work to increase access to services and opportunities especially for those in work. To develop a community based out of hours service with Peterhead and Fraserburgh that will improve outcomes for those on low income who are experiencing inequalities in relation to accessing services and support when required.</p>	<p>Aberdeen Foyer is the lead partner in developing the Community Hubs. Due to the pandemic the Community Hubs are now delivered online. The number of clients that have been supported since the start of the project in March 2020 has been 565. The funding has supported employability activities, increased digital access, delivered income maximisation services , supported health &amp; well being and supported people who have been furloughed. The project has also delivered online training sessions to housing , criminal justice and partnership teams.</p>	<p>2021/2022 - £83,874</p>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>		
<p><b>Quarriers</b> To support two full time Epilepsy Fieldworkers to help people living with epilepsy avoid, or move out, of poverty through improving and sustaining employability. The risk of poverty is significant among people with epilepsy and their carers. Those living with epilepsy can find themselves made redundant by their employer. Others trying to enter the paid jobs market can encounter stigma with employers reluctant to offer them jobs. Those caring for people with epilepsy can also find it hard to balance their caring role with paid employment. Some have had to give up paid employment placing pressure on family budgets.</p>	<p>Support includes one-to-one, family and group support, with a focus on people with epilepsy and their carers where a new diagnosis has been made, the condition is difficult to control, other conditions and support needs are present, and times are challenging. Where children are concerned, support will be provided primarily to their carers, and via training of others involved in supporting them. Fieldworkers will be able to respond rapidly to emerging needs, give intensive support for as long as needed and ensure sustainability by following up long-term. Covid has affected service delivery across Aberdeenshire however the service has supported 115 people living with epilepsy in Aberdeenshire during the pandemic. The areas of support have been digital inclusion, wellbeing activities, information and advice on</p>	<p>Funding to cover 6 months to explore a joint funding package.  2021/22 - £14,652</p>

Project Summary	Outcomes and progress	Proposed Funding allocation
	their epilepsy, welfare benefits, housing, employment, mental health, medication, and NHS appointments.	
<p><b>Aberdeenshire North Foodbank</b> The funding was allocated to build capacity and open a Foodbank within the Fraserburgh area.</p>	<p>Compared to 2019 we have seen a 43% increase across the whole service area with the equivalent of 7467 food parcels provided to people. Increase of 54% provided to children, with parcels provided to 2555 children and increase of 38% for adults with 4912 parcels provided.</p> <p>Moved to back deliveries given the new C19 variant.</p> <p>The Fraserburgh development has also secured additional funding from Asda to deliver financial inclusion support. A partnership has been developed with Aberdeen Foyer who will deliver financial information &amp; support to clients in Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Ellon.</p>	2021 / 22 - £12,100
<p><b>Buchan Dial a Community Bus</b> To develop a bespoke transport service, timetabled to meet the needs of the users and the service providers, during weekdays and at weekends. This project has been developed to ensure those in the rural areas can access services, opportunities, and employability.</p>	Limited outcome due to Covid but they have bought a new bus and are looking to deliver the project within 2021.	2021/2022 - £35,436
<p><b>Information &amp; Advice framework</b> This framework was put in place to increase access to information &amp; advice services through a community-based contract led by Kincardine &amp; Mearns CAB and specialist staff hosted within GP surgeries</p>	<p>The pandemic has affected the outcomes of this framework however clients are contacting the services more quickly resulting in positive outcomes earlier. A free phone number and online services have been developed throughout 2020.</p> <p>European Social Fund has been secured to increase specialist workers who will be hosted within</p>	<p>2021/ 22 – CAB contract - £400,00 Specialist staff – £149,000 Total £549,000</p>

<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Outcomes and progress</b>	<b>Proposed Funding allocation</b>
	Aberdeenshire Council Housing Service and identified community hosts such as People First.	2022/23 - £549,000
Tackling Poverty & Inequalities staff costs 1 full time TP&I Coordinator 1 full time TP&I Project Officer		2021/ 22 - £100,000 2022/23 - £105,000
<b>Total 2021/ 22</b>		£1,021, 667
<b>Total 2022/23</b>		£711,000